

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An inventory management system comprising:
an electronic device operable to receive job data in a selected one of a plurality of available input modalities;
an inventory database operable to store inventory data that includes count information and location information for each of a plurality of items;
wherein the inventory data is accessible in a plurality of formats, each of the formats being compatible with one of the available input modalities;
a format determination system operable to input inventory data in a received one of the formats and determine corresponding inventory data in remaining ones of the formats; and
a server operable to receive the job data in the received format, communicate with the format determination system to determine the remaining formats, and output updated inventory data to the electronic device for response thereto in any one of the available input modalities, such that the inventory data is maintained during performance of inventory management tasks.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the job data is related to a task performed by a worker in a warehouse, and the inventory data includes a listing of a subset of the plurality of items to be distributed, selected, or counted by the worker.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the updated inventory data includes a revision of the listing, based on the job data and reflecting an action of the worker in performing the task.
4. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein a first input modality of the plurality of input modalities is associated with an auto-identification signal for identifying a distributed, selected, or counted item associated with the task.
5. (Original) The system of claim 4 comprising a container carried by the worker that is

equipped with a reader for reading the auto-identification signal.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the electronic device includes a mobile device carried by a worker in a warehouse during performance of the warehouse management tasks.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the electronic device includes a stationary device that is co-located with one of the plurality of items.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
a first gateway associated with a first input modality of the plurality of input modalities associated with a first format of the plurality of formats; and
a second gateway associated with a second input modality of the plurality of input modalities associated with a second format of the plurality of formats, wherein the server is further operable to communicate with the electronic device through the first gateway and the second gateway, such that the job data, inventory data, and updated inventory data are synchronized across the first input modality and the second input modality during communications between the server and the electronic device.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the first input modality is associated with voice inputs and the first format includes Voice Extensible Markup Language (VXML).

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second input modality is associated with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) signal inputs and the second gateway includes a RFID gateway.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the second input modality is associated with a Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) page, and the second format is HTML.

12. (Original) A method of providing warehouse management comprising:

providing a first input modality and a second input modality;
receiving job data in a first format consistent with the first input modality;
generating inventory data in the first format in response to receipt of the first data;
corresponding the inventory data to analogous inventory data in a second format
consistent with the second input modality; and
outputting the inventory data and the analogous inventory data for response thereto in the
first input modality and the second input modality, respectively.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein providing the first input modality and the second input modality comprises communicating the first input modality and the second input modality to a mobile device carried by a warehouse worker while performing a task associated with the job data.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein providing the first input modality and the second input modality comprises providing the first input modality to a mobile device carried by a worker in a warehouse while performing a task associated with the job data, and providing the second input modality to a stationary device co-located with an item stored in the warehouse at a storage location.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the stationary device includes a display screen associated with the storage location.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the stationary device includes a sensor associated with the storage location.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the first input modality is associated with a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transmitter carried by a worker in a warehouse.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein receiving job data includes receiving count information related to an item selected or distributed by the worker within the warehouse,

the count information being detected by the RFID transmitter from an RFID tag associated with the item.

19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein receiving job data comprises receiving information from a warehouse worker associated with a task performed by the warehouse worker.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the task includes retrieving, distributing, or counting items to, from, or at a plurality of locations in a warehouse.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein generating inventory data comprises generating a listing of the items and their respective locations within the warehouse.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein generating inventory data comprises updating an inventory database and the listing of the items, based on the job data as it is received from the warehouse worker through the first input modality or the second input modality.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein the first input modality is associated with a voice input, and the second input modality is associated with one of a barcode input and a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) input.

24.-46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) A method of providing inventory management, comprising:
receiving job data in a selected one of a plurality of available input modalities at an electronic device;
storing inventory data that includes count information and location information for each of a plurality of items, wherein the inventory data is accessible in a plurality of formats, each of the formats being compatible with one of the available input modalities;

inputting inventory data in a received one of the formats using a format determination system;

determining corresponding inventory data in remaining ones of the formats;

receiving the job data in the received format;

communicating with the format determination system to determine the remaining formats; and

outputting updated inventory data to the electronic device for response thereto in any one of the available input modalities, such that the inventory data is maintained during performance of inventory management tasks.

48. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the job data is related to a task performed by a worker in a warehouse, and the inventory data includes a listing of a subset of the plurality of items to be distributed, selected, or counted by the worker.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the updated inventory data includes a revision of the listing, based on the job data and reflecting an action of the worker in performing the task.

50. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein a first input modality of the plurality of input modalities is associated with an auto-identification signal for identifying a distributed, selected, or counted item associated with the task.

51. (New) The method of claim 50 comprising providing a container that can be carried by the worker, and that is equipped with a reader for reading the auto-identification signal.

52. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the electronic device includes a mobile device carried by a worker in a warehouse during performance of the warehouse management tasks.

53. (New) The method of claim 47 wherein the electronic device includes a stationary device that is co-located with one of the plurality of items.

54. (New) The method of claim 47 further comprising:
 providing a first gateway associated with a first input modality of the plurality of input modalities associated with a first format of the plurality of formats; and
 providing a second gateway associated with a second input modality of the plurality of input modalities associated with a second format of the plurality of formats; and
 communicating with the electronic device through the first gateway and the second gateway, such that the job data, inventory data, and updated inventory data are synchronized across the first input modality and the second input modality during communications.
55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the first input modality is associated with voice inputs and the first format includes Voice Extensible Markup Language (VXML).
56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the second input modality is associated with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) signal inputs and the second gateway includes a RFID gateway.
57. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the second input modality is associated with a Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) page, and the second format is HTML.